

The Sydney Morning Herald.

No. 8748.—VOL. LIII.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1886

PRICE THREEPENCE.

BIRTHS.

On the 21st May, at No. 10, George-street, New Victoria-street, Sydney, the wife of Mr. James Davidson, of a son, named James Davidson, aged 10 years, the wife of Mr. James Davidson, of a son, named James Davidson, aged 10 years, the wife of Mr. James Davidson, of a son, named James Davidson, aged 10 years.

MARRIAGES.

On the 21st May, at No. 10, George-street, New Victoria-street, Sydney, the wife of Mr. James Davidson, of a son, named James Davidson, aged 10 years, the wife of Mr. James Davidson, of a son, named James Davidson, aged 10 years, the wife of Mr. James Davidson, of a son, named James Davidson, aged 10 years.

DEATHS.

On the 21st May, at No. 10, George-street, New Victoria-street, Sydney, the wife of Mr. James Davidson, of a son, named James Davidson, aged 10 years, the wife of Mr. James Davidson, of a son, named James Davidson, aged 10 years, the wife of Mr. James Davidson, of a son, named James Davidson, aged 10 years.

SHIP ADVERTISEMENTS.

STEAM TO ENGLAND VIA PANAMA.—The Panama New Zealand and Australian Royal Mail Steamship

KAIKOURA, 1600 tons, 600 horse power, will be despatched from SYDNEY, June 15th, 1886, at 10 a.m.

WELLINGTON, DEPART, June 21st, 1886, at 10 a.m.

YAKAMA, ARRIVE, July 21st, 1886, at 10 a.m.

STEAM TO SOUTHAMPTON.—The Royal Mail Company's steamship

COLON, DEPART, June 15th, 1886, at 10 a.m.

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SHIP ADVERTISEMENTS.

PARRAMATTA AND HIVER STEAMERS.—The PATENT SHIP WHARF (bottom of

COCKATOO, HUNTER'S HILL, and GLADES

VILLE (bottom of the Asylum), 7, 9, and 11

am, 1.3.15, 1.45, and 5.15, p.m.

TO RYDE, 7.9 and 11 a.m.; 1.3.15, and 5 p.m.

TO PARRAMATTA, 9 and 11 a.m.; 1 and 5 p.m.

From PARRAMATTA, 7 and 11 a.m.; 1 and 5 p.m.

From RYDE, at 7.40, 8.40, 11.40, 1.40, and 4.25.

From GLADES, at 8.9, 1.25, 4.45, and 6.45.

From HUNTER'S HILL, at a quarter past two hours.

Fares at the lowest rates as advertised.

ILLAWARRA S. N. COMPANY'S STEAMERS TO

WOLLONGONG.—HUNTER, TO-NIGHT, at 11; and

CONTRAM, TO-MORROW, at 8 a.m.

RIAMA.—HUNTER, TO-NIGHT, at 11.

SHAGARVING, HUNTER, TO-NIGHT, at 11.

ULAIALLA.—CONTRAM, TO-MORROW, at 8 a.m.

MORUYA.—CONTRAM, TO-MORROW, at 8 a.m.

CLYDE RIVER.—Kneble, on MONDAY, at 10 a.m.

MERIMBLA.—Kneble, on WEDNESDAY, at 10 a.m.

COCKATOO, HUNTER'S HILL, and TABMAN

CHEEK, nearest Wharf to the ASYLUM and

GLADES VILLE.—STEAMERS, THIS DAY, from

END COCKATOO, STEWART, 7.30, 10.30, 12.30, 4.30,

5.45, 7.45, 9.50, 11.15, 1.20, 4.50, 6.50.

On SATURDAY, from King-street, 1.15, 1.45, 2.15,

and 4.45 and 11 p.m., returning from Tarn at

2.30 and 11.30.

MANLY REACH STEAMERS, THIS DAY, Leave

Queen's Wharf 10.15, 2.15, 5.15, 7.15, 9.15, 11.15.

Woodhouse, 10.30, 2.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30, 11.30.

Fare, 1s each way; children, 6d.

S. H. WILSON.

FOR THE TWOED RIVER, LIBRARY. For

freight apply on board, TAYLOR'S Wharf.

FOR FORT MCGILLIC.—The MAITLAND, from

King-street, on MONDAY, on Saturday Evening.

ELLEN, for TWOED BAY and TATHRA, on

MONDAY, 4th June, Commercial Wharf.

MARTHA ELLEN, for BRISBANE.—Clear and

sails TO-MORROW. Shippers will please

complete shipments, Pass ENTRIES, and forward Bills of

Lading for signature at once.

For freight or passage apply on board, at the Commercial

Wharf, or to LAIDLEY, IRELAND, and CO., Lloyd's

Chambers.

ONLY VESSEL FOR ROCKHAMPTON.—The

clipper ship WOODLARK, J. McClelland, com-

mander, is now fast loading, and will have immediate

dispatch. For freight or passage, apply on board, at the Graham

Wharf, or to LAIDLEY, IRELAND, and CO., Lloyd's

Chambers.

NEW ZEALAND GOLD-FIELDS.—The

Panama New Zealand and Australian Royal Mail

Steamship

OTAGO, 1600 tons, 600 horse power, will be

despatched from SYDNEY, June 15th, 1886, at 10 a.m.

WELLINGTON, DEPART, June 21st, 1886, at 10 a.m.

SHIP ADVERTISEMENTS.

SHIP BUCKTON CASTLE, from London.—

ENTRIES for the undermentioned Goods are not

passed before 10 o'clock TO-DAY, the goods will be en-

tered, landed, and stored at Consignee's risk and expense.—

Captain J. Jettie—1 box, consigned as addressed.

RFF—50 cases, ditto, Order.

J. H. Scrutton—2 cases, ditto J. H. Scrutton.

VEH—4 packages, ditto Vicky and 1 box, ditto W. E. Riddick.

WCH—over 80 cases, 1 case, ditto W. E. Riddick.

PNR—100 cases cement, ditto P. N. Russell and Co.

RPR—cons in diamond—7 packages, ditto Parks and Co.

N over 10 in diamond—250 cases gin, 40 cases, ditto

Order.

WWH—1 crate, ditto W. W. Beckland.

SAUNDERS and CO., Lyons-buildings.

FRIGHT.—Vessels proceeding to New Zealand and

capable of stowing log timber, may obtain return

freight on application to A. S. WEBSTER, Gresham-

street.

FOR FRIGHT or CHARTER, the clipper brig

GORDON, Apply

MOLISON and BLACK, New Pitt-street.

CHARTERS.—Tonnage wanted.—New Zealand to

India, Champion Bay to Sydney, Sydney to Calcutta.

WILLIS, MERRY, and LLOYD.

CHARTER.—Wanted, a VESSEL, to load for Hong

kong, length 100 feet, breadth 12, 13, 14, 15,

16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30,

31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45,

46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60,

61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75,

76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90,

91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

MOLISON and BLACK, New Pitt-street.

WANTED, VESSELS to load at Newcastle

for ADELAIDE and ALLANBORO. Also for

CHINA and SAN FRANCISCO. Highest rates given.

JOSEPH WARD and CO., 345, George-street.

WANTED, a VESSEL, to convey about thirty tons

Sulphur from the South Sea Islands. Joseph

Ward and Co., 345, George-street.

WANTED, to purchase or charter a barthen

all round, 1000 tons, in the colony of New South

Wales, gentleman, deceased.

LONGBOAT.—Wanted, a good second-hand LONG

BOAT. Apply on board the Adelaide, barque, of

Hilly and Harper's Wharf.

FOR SALE, a SKIFF, with sails and all, 20 ft.

long, 10 ft. wide, 10 ft. deep, 10 ft. high, 10 ft.

long, 10 ft. wide, 10 ft. deep, 10 ft. high, 10 ft.

long, 10 ft. wide, 10 ft. deep, 10 ft. high, 10 ft.

long, 10 ft. wide, 10 ft. deep, 10 ft. high, 10 ft.

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long, 10 ft. wide, 10 ft. deep, 10 ft. high, 10 ft.

long, 10 ft. wide, 10 ft. deep, 10 ft. high, 10 ft.

PERSONS ADVERTISED FOR.

It is this morning the eye of Miss ELIZA ALLEN,

she would oblige by calling on Mr. BLAXLAND,

Newtown.

GEORGE YOUNG.

MR. J. J. SCHWENGER, or Mr. ANNE

SCRIVENER.—A COMMUNICATION Box at

this office for the above parties.

MR. WILLIAM PASKIN.—His brother has arrived

in Sydney, and will be most happy to hear from

him. Address T. PASKIN, Ship Wharf, Sydney.

THOMAS MORTON, from Adelaide.—THOMAS

JAMES desires to see you at No. 39, Cambridge-st.

SAUNDERS and CO., Lyons-buildings.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, PITT-STREET.

The Service will be held in the VICTORIA

THEATRE, PITT-STREET, on SUNDAY next, the 2nd

of June, in consequence of the Prince of Wales's

being under repair. The Rev. JOHN GRAHAM will (D.V.)

preach morning and evening, at 11 and 7 o'clock.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH

WALLES, in the ESTATE OF THE LATE

STEPHEN PACE, late of Ryde, in the

colony of New South Wales, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given, that after the expiration of

fourteen days from the publication hereof, application will

be made to the Court, for the purpose of obtaining

an order for the sale of the real and personal

estate of the said deceased, and for the appointment

of an executor in and to the said estate.

Dated the 31st day of May, 1886.

SPAIN and ROXBURGH, Proctors for the said

estate in Chambers, Sydney.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH

WALLES, in the ESTATE OF THE LATE

JOHN GEORGE JOSEPH WILLIAMS, late of

New South Wales, deceased.

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an order for the sale of the real and personal

estate of the said deceased, and for the appointment

of an executor in and to the said estate.

Dated the 31st day of May, 1886.

GEORGE EVANS, Proctor for the said estate, 102,

King-street, Sydney.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH

WALLES, in the ESTATE OF THE LATE

JOHN GEORGE JOSEPH WILLIAMS, late of

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Dated the 31st day of May, 1886.

GEORGE EVANS, Proctor for the said estate, 102,

King-street, Sydney.

MUNICIPALITY OF BALMAIN.—Appals against

the Assessment for the current year will be heard

at Court of Petty Sessions, to be held at the

of saline matter contained in this an

fatal and dreaded disease," with which a great town can be afflicted arises from "a cause mysterious and complex," and "the cause is found; the remedy is known; but we have nothing new to communicate on either point. It is a principle in pathology that the chief agencies of typhoid fever are poverty, overcrowding, and filth." The pro-cess made the acknowledgment of this principle by the leading members of the Corporation and the Health Committee, and in their readiness to accept of the conclusion. The rise and progress of the epidemic, and its chief causes, are described by Dr. Farr in his report of the health, in his valuable report for the year 1864, and in his report on the evidence before the sub-committee of the Health Committee, "appointed to inquire

mortality of the borough, and as to the means "to be adopted for mitigating the same." He has shown most conclusively that the root of the evil lies in over-crowding, and Liverpool must continue to remain under the stigma of being the most unhealthy town in the kingdom until she has provided the remedy. Fanned by a bracing and invigorating sea-breeze, and built for the most part on the dry red sandstone of the district, Liverpool should be one of the healthiest towns in the country. Apart from the wretched unfortunates to whom this charge of ex-

crowding is applicable, we believe that this is its normal hygienic condition, and that it only requires the newly-awakened intelligence of its executive authorities vigorously to apply itself in the desired direction to cause that condition to assume reality. Some years ago we drew attention to the dangers that were to be apprehended from the almost unchecked custom of the indigent and very poor immigrants from Ireland herding together in the most densely populated portions of the town. Describing the result of a midnight inspection of a lodging-house in No. 7 Lower Stock Exchange street, we said:

room little more than seven feet square we found thirteen human creatures, lying huddled together like pigs in an overcrowded sty. So close together were they that it seemed an impossibility to step into their midst without putting foot upon them. There they lay in indiscriminate confusion—boys and girls, men and women. As in the rooms below, lines intersected the room, and the ragged clothes of the sleeping unfortunates were slung over them. Irish here, Irish there, Irish everywhere—all Irish. The 'bowspirt' kept the window open, but the stench and

heat were intolerable. So high indeed was the temperature, that the men and boys had divested themselves of every strip of wearing apparel, and were in as free a state of nature as the Choctaw Indians, except that a dirty blanket, or an old coat, or a piece of filthy sack, was thrown partly across their bodies. Similar scenes from the courts, alleys, and narrow streets of the same neighbourhood were described week after week, and the authorities were warned that such a condition of overcrowding, filth, and want could not fail to produce its natural result, and that

typhus, one of the most fatal archers in the invincible battalion of Death, would ere long be shooting his poisoned arrows from his ambush. Four years afterwards, typhus fever, which is never entirely absent from these districts, became epidemic; and the cause of the rapid spread of the disease during the depression consequent on the American civil war is very clearly described by Dr. Trench:—

“An epidemic of typhus indicates the existence of some cause of unusual distress—whether from the failure of crops, the dearth of provisions, the slackness of trade, the tightness of arsenals, or the

labour market, the follies of strikes, or of personal vices and reckless imprudence—by which the people, as a whole, or in large numbers, are so reduced below the normal standard of health and strength as to become the easy victims of contagion. * * * Increase of pauperism is always accompanied by an increase of typhus; * * * and what is true of the temporary distress occasioned among the labouring population of our port by the east wind, is equally so when the distress succeeds public calamities or personal vices. * * * Liverpool

presents, in the condition of its labouring population, certain peculiarities, social and economic, which predisposes to the generation and extension of typhus. * * * The demand for unskilled labour is always great at seaport towns, but has been peculiarly so in Liverpool, on account of the extension of its docks on both sides of the Mersey, and the vast increase of its shipping and trade. Now the interests of the unskilled workmen are not protected either by the restrictions imposed by the duration of apprenticeship, or by the dexterity of knowledge and experience of the skilled workmen.

"experience," not as they guarded by those rules and trade combinations which check competition and enhance wages." Dr. Trench goes on to explain the causes which produce in the condition of the dock labourers transitions from abundance to absolute pauperism. The Irish immigrants, attracted by the allurement of a sudden flush of trade, flock to the port, "bringing with them not only the burthen of poverty, but a capacity of submitting to privations which act as a pernicious example to other labourers; and hence we find, in this town of commercial prosperity and wealth, large sections of the people in the lowest scale

of social, physical, and moral degradation. There can thus (he added) be no difficulty in understanding why, lety, typhus is never absent from Liverpool; 2nd, why among a population so reduced by overcrowding and privations below the normal standard of health and strength, the slightest increase of public distress quickly converts sporadic typhus into the giant of a fatal epidemic; 3rd, why seaports like Liverpool and Glasgow—the resort of unskilled labourers and especially of poor Irish—are so unfavourably placed on the lists of the Registrar-

of social, physical, and moral degradation. There can thus (he added) be no difficulty in understanding why, lety, typhus is never absent from Liverpool; 2nd, why among a population so reduced by overcrowding and privations below the normal standard of health and strength, the slightest increase of public distress quickly converts sporadic typhus into the giant of a fatal epidemic; 3rd, why seaports like Liverpool and Glasgow—the resort of unskilled labourers and especially of poor Irish—are so unfavourably placed on the lists of the Registrar-

It is impossible in our limited space to follow Dr. Trench through his interesting and valuable statistics, and the conclusions he derives from them. He shows not only the cause and effects of typhus, but of other diseases most fatal in their operation; and points out what plans are best calculated to place the borough in a healthy state. But the most important feature of his reports are those which point to a practical solution of the difficulties surrounding the question of overcrowding. He classifies the causes of overcrowding under five heads:

1st. The construction of the cottage houses, the cubic areas of whose rooms do not, on an average, exceed 700 to 900 feet; 2nd, the indigence of families whose means oblige them to live in single suble rooms; 3rd, the ignorance, neglect, and bad home arrangements of parents and others, who, without the compulsion of necessity, huddle families in one room, while others are unoccupied; 4th, the desire of gain, which prompts the chief or landlord's tenant to sublet single rooms to more than one family; 5th, the abject and squalid pauperism which must asso-

Under existing circumstances, and until a sufficiency of cheaper and better class of lodging-rooms is provided, Dr. Trench is afraid that to endeavour to put down the overcrowding by driving out the poor occupants would but be to aggravate the evil by causing overcrowding in places not accessible to the Sanitary Inspector. But for the statement of the 4th cause, which rests on the greed of the landlord's tenant in sub-letting his rooms to as many poor

creatures as can be conveniently huddled in it, he advocates detection and punishment. To this end he suggests the appointment of a limited number of special night inspectors, aided by information from the police, and the sanitary house-to-house inspectors. "Here there need be no scruples about harassing the people; for the offence is patent and eminently injurious to society. But as without the active assistance and co-operation of landlords it would be impossible to effect any good, a proper interest in the mode in which property is used should be insisted on, by making the owners, namely, unanswerable for that

made." As to registered lodging-houses, he thinks, and no doubt correctly, that "vicious overcrowding" could, at least in its worst phases, be in a great degree contracted by the united assistance of the police, the sanitary officers, and a few special inspectors. No doubt these people could be turned out and made to "move on," but they would speedily invade some congenial locality where they might be able to wallow in their filth, and continue to breathe the polluted atmosphere of an overcrowded room, undisturbed by the intrusive attentions of the in-

specters. But in truth no remedy will suffice for many of these people until they have been taught to value cleanliness and to understand and appreciate the laws regulating a healthy condition of body and mind. They will be tolerably decent only by compulsion. There are thousands of others who are driven by circumstances into companionship with the degraded frequenters of these over-crowded places; and for them we hope are long to see improved dwellings provided, by the erection of large blocks of model lodging-houses in different localities in the business or working men's

cottage, in the outskirts of the town, which may be brought within ready reach of the seats of labour by a cheap mode of conveyance. With this object in view, we earnestly wish that success may attend the memorial to her Majesty, adopted by the Town Council on Wednesday, on the motion of Mr. Robertson Gladstone, for the repeal of the stage-coach duty, and also that to Parliament, in regard to labourers' dwellings, which has been signed by many influential

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TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES.

BERRIMA. Thursday. The Quarter Sessions opened here to-day, and there being no cases for trial, the Police Magistrate, in accordance with the old custom when a calendar is handed up, presented District Judge Purfoy with a pair of white kid gloves. His Honor congratulated the district on the absence of crime.

BATHURST. Thursday. The Quarter Sessions commenced to-day. The case tried so far have been for home-stealing, in which there are no features of interest. The weather is very cold.

BRISBANE. Thursday. Arrived—Southern Ocean, from London, with immigrants; Telegraph (S.), from Sydney. Sailed—Cawarra (S.), for Sydney.

ROCKHAMPTON. (Via Brisbane). A movement is on foot to organise a separation agitation. It is proposed to make Port Denison the point, in the event of separation being obtained.

MELBOURNE. Thursday, 6 p.m. The Legislative Council passed the Appropriation Bill to-night. A message was read from the Acting Governor, to the effect that he intends to prorogue Parliament to-morrow. Mr. Miller moved that the Council adjourn till the next day, but there was a dissent; consequently, it will not meet till Tuesday next. The Public Health Bill was lost.

The application for shares in the new Commercial Bank exceeded the number required. The last day closed.

The import market is quiet. In breadstuffs, however, there has been more activity. Sales of flour, 4,000 lbs. and Macquarie's flour have been made at 4/11; sales of Chilean have also taken place at 4/11; sales of wheat, 75,000, at 4/11. Oats are at 3/6, 3/8, 3/10, 3/12, 3/14, 3/16, 3/18, 3/20, 3/22, 3/24, 3/26, 3/28, 3/30, 3/32, 3/34, 3/36, 3/38, 3/40, 3/42, 3/44, 3/46, 3/48, 3/50, 3/52, 3/54, 3/56, 3/58, 3/60, 3/62, 3/64, 3/66, 3/68, 3/70, 3/72, 3/74, 3/76, 3/78, 3/80, 3/82, 3/84, 3/86, 3/88, 3/90, 3/92, 3/94, 3/96, 3/98, 3/100.

Arrived—Hermione, from New York; Winifred, from London; General Cobb, from Adelaide; and Bulk from California, her cargo consists chiefly of corn.

There is a large ship off the Otway. Five Anger Point information has been received that ship, Jeddah, from Surinam, bound for China with opium, was set on fire, and 250 of the coolies perished in the flames.

QUEENSLAND. Thursday, 6 p.m. Arrived—Hinder, from Newcastle. Sailed—City of Adelaide (S.), and You Yangs (S.), for Sydney.

Arrived—On Wednesday evening last, in the Doherty, the late Mr. Stiel, delivered a very interesting lecture on "The wisdom of the Bible in many lands." It was a very interesting and successful lecture, and the lecturer showed the religious of mankind; and the lecturer showed that the Bible was given to a book—a book which was not the ordinary means of human civilization and improvement. He then referred to the fact that the Bible was given to a book—a book which was not the ordinary means of human civilization and improvement.

On the subject of the new business. Board then proceeded to strike a rate not to exceed 4/6 per mile of frontage in the first year and 4/1 per mile of frontage in any subsequent year. Rates not paid within 60 days to be summarily recovered.

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THE CONSERVATION OF WATER, AND THE LEGISLATION AFFECTING IT.

COMMUNICATED. No. II. THERE are no trifling difficulties to be encountered in attempting to enact a law which will enable all to conserve water, without injustice to some; but the difficulty of legislating so as to apply to the circumstances of all the different channels throughout the colony, seems almost insurmountable. Here we have a snow stream from the mountains, there one produced by the surface drainage of the plains; anon, an affluent from some of the large rivers, by and by a creek caused by the overflow of a river, and next, perhaps, a clear stream arising from rock springs. Their courses and channels are no less dissimilar than their sources—one a deep narrow rocky canon; the next, a wide muddy flat; then a steep sided gutter, in the middle of the clay plains; another, a net-work of ana branches, meandering among sandhills.

I can conceive no one law so comprehensive as to provide for the circumstances of water channels so various in their description. What could suit the sluggish stream having a fall of but a few inches in the mile, would be quite inapplicable to those having a mountain source and a considerable fall and current.

When the gold discoveries spread from district to district, it was found that laws which worked well on one gold-field were worse than useless on another. The solution of that difficulty indicates a course for us to arrive at a settlement of our own. It is simply local management, and district laws made for each division of the water system by local Boards.

It will save much writing to submit at once a sketch of a measure, such as I conceive, would answer this purpose:—

Any magistrate resident in the district shall, on the requisition of ten or more occupants of creek frontage, convene a meeting of all interested in creek property in his particular drainage district, in order to consider the advisability of placing themselves under this Act.

The preliminary meeting, by a majority of votes, to appoint a provisional committee to communicate with Crown Land officers as to advisable boundaries of district; to obtain plans showing occupants of water in such district, and extent of frontage occupied by each.

The provisional committee having decided on boundaries, and ascertained occupants, to forward to each occupant a notice of the intention of applying to the Crown Land Officer to acquire his share of the district, and to require his assent or dissent within a fixed time—failing dissent within that time, assent to be assumed.

On receiving the assent of the occupants of not less than two-thirds of the frontage, the committee to apply to Government for the appointment of a returning officer, and to employ the interval in forming a roll and adjusting the mode of voting (the proportion of votes being regulated by extent of interest in water frontage).

Returning officer, on his appointment, to notify the time, place, and mode of election of ten members (being occupants) to form a Board of Control, and to decide on result of election.

Members elected, along with the Commissioner of Crown Lands for district, the District Surveyor, and the District Engineer, to be gazetted as the Board of Control for the Conservation of Water in the district, having power to enact rules, order surveys, inspect works, and make laws and regulations for the governance of all dams, races, canals, &c.

Board to appoint a chairman and deputy-chairman, an executive officer as inspector and secretary (such officer to be either an M.L.C., London, or an L.S. of this colony), and thereafter to frame by-laws for the due conduct of its own business.

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also an advantage, and that the extension of that occupation to the present waste is desirable. Yet the present regulations as to free selection not only intimidate capitalists in further investments for the improvement of runs now only partially occupied, but prevent them from bringing into an available condition an immense extent of country which has been assigned to tenderers, but is still a waterless desert. Seeing that the utility of the works already executed is in peril, they naturally hesitate in undertaking others while such works continue to be offered by Government, as a premium to the free selector to encroach on the most improved squattages.

I cannot see that there would be anything unjust in the squatter demanding of the Government, that if it chose to deprive him of his improvements, the party becoming possessed of the land should refund him their value. As the law stands at present, the Crown makes a gift of its waste lands and its improved lands alike. It inflicts a fatal injury on its old tenants without deriving any advantage by doing so. It encourages every one to rob the very men who are benefiting its own property, and promises the robbers protection for the act and the whole of the plunder. It is to be wondered at then, that a sudden stop has been put to the improvements formerly progressing so rapidly, and that leaves of back country, lately in such demand, are now saleable at one-third of their former price? To bring matters back to their former state, and to induce new enterprise, all that is wanting is insuring the settler of a fair chance of availing himself of the improvements he effects. Let this be done, and complaints will no longer be heard of stagnation in the labour market, or of heavy stocks among the improvers.

The remedy which I would suggest is hardly even a return to the *status quo ante*. It would involve the enforcement of two extra regulations to the Alienation of Lands Act of 1861. The first would be:—

Wherever water has been preserved by artificial means at the expense of the holder of a run, a reserve from free selection shall be made along the channel or reservoir containing such water; said reserve to have a depth of one mile on each side of such channel or reservoir.

Such a regulation need not necessarily shut up desirable lands from agriculturists. Should it be thought necessary, let another regulation compel the survey and sale by auction of a dozen or more farms, wherever land may be applied for by any three applicants. The farms would then undoubtedly fetch the value of improved lands, and the State would receive their full price, which now it never does. It is well known that free selectors pick the land. For their five shillings they become possessed of what to the squatter is worth forty or more, as the selector well knows, and he often invests his five shillings and the labour of two or three men, with the deliberate intent of screwing this real value out of the land.

Surely a law requires modification which in its working subjects one man to robbery that another may plunder both him and the State.

A slightly different regulation would meet the case of wells. According to the quality of the surrounding country, and to the supply of water obtained by sinking, a well will maintain from four to eight thousand sheep throughout the year. It is seldom, however, that the larger number can be provided for. Let it be ascertained from the returns under the Seal Act, in conjunction with the area of the run, what is the average acreage occupied by each sheep. Allow say 5000 sheep to a well, and say they are found to require three acres each. In such a case, let the well, capable of watering this number, form the centre of a reserve of the size that it has made available, that is, 15,000 acres.

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AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND LITERARY INSTITUTION.

A GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders and proprietors of this institution was held in the Library, on Tuesday afternoon, to appoint a committee of management for the current year, under the amended Act which has been passed by the New South Wales Parliament. The Hon. Mr. Mitchell, M.L.C., occupied the chair. Amongst those present were the Hon. E. C. Westlake, M.L.C., Mr. J. B. Patterson, M.P., Dr. A. Beckwith, Professor Smith, Mr. E. W. M. Johnson, Mr. Lang, Mr. P. M. Metcalf, and Mr. O. O'Byrne.

Dr. Mitchell, in stating the objects of the meeting, said that the institution was founded in 1852, and that it had since that time been steadily increasing in its resources. He stated that the institution was now in a position to be able to state that the amended Act, which reduces the value of the shares to £5 each, would seem to give great satisfaction to the shareholders and proprietors.

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RINGWORM, OR DODDER, ON LUCERNE.

FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS OF SEVERAL CORRESPONDENTS. THE parasite called "ringworm," or "dodder," has lately prevailed to a considerable extent on lucerne cultivated in some districts of the colony. The parasite is nothing new to agriculturists, having been known in New South Wales for many years, but of late it seems to have spread more extensively than heretofore, and to have become very injurious to the lucerne crops. This troublesome weed (*Cuscuta epilinum*) in some respects resembles mistletoe, and in others dodder laurel (*Cuscuta*), but it differs from the former in not plunging its roots into the wood and incorporating them with the tissue of plants; and it differs from the latter in being a much more thread-like parasite, the seeds of which are dust-like in appearance. The germination of the dodder is curious. Its slender and simple radicle descends into the earth; and the plumule, equally simple and cylindrical, rises like a thread; if it ends no other living plant near it, it dies; if it finds one, it surrounds the stem, and from the points of contact proceed hollow tubercles or suckers, which plant themselves in the bark and suck the juice which has been elaborated by the plant attacked; then the root becomes obliterated and dies, and the plant lives from that time forward by its suckers only. The species of our *Cuscuta* or dodder laurus (these plants being placed by botanists in the laurus family), are sometimes mistaken for dodder, but they are much coarser plants, and generally grow on shrubs or trees, sometimes forming dense and almost impenetrable masses in our scrubs. The species described by Brown as *C. pubescens*, *C. minutula*, *C. glabella*, and *C. paniculata*, are two of which may frequently be seen in the neighbourhood of Sydney, and the fruit of them is well known to boys. These plants are leafless, visible, and parasitical, and in their habit they differ from the dodder, for after they have sited themselves on any shrub, their root perishes, and they live by means of the small protuberances or suckers which they form on other plants. The true Australian dodders are placed by Brown in the *Cuscuta* family, and are distinguished from the European species by their seeds, which are dust-like in appearance. These celebrated botanists describe two species, *C. Australis* and *C. carinata*, both of which they considered typical; but they have since been found to be one and the same, though somewhat sparingly, and generally adhering to some *Polygonum* growing near water. The

BURT and CO. are instructed by Mr. Stephen Scholey to sell by auction, at the above Yards, on **MONDAY**, at 2 o'clock, 90 head of cattle.

1711 been favoured with instructions to sell by auction, at their Rooms, 239, George-street, on SATURDAY June 2nd, at 11 o'clock.

Valuable household furniture and effects, removed to the Rooms for the convenience of sale.

Terms, cash.

11, **Real Estate** auction, at the City Mart, **THIS DAY**
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 8 cases prime selected Kluge figs, each containing
 one-eight boxes, 4 lbs.
 6 cases Muscatel Raisins, each 12 boxes.
 Terms at sale.

at **L. E. THRELKELD and CO.**
City Mart, on TUESDAY, will
be unusually extensive and well-selected assortment
general ironmongery, &c., now landing
at Valparaiso. Terms at sale.

Clearance sale at Messrs. W. Jolly and Co.
Yard.
POSTPONEMENT.
MR. W. DEAN begs to intimate
above sale is unavoidably postponed
FRIDAY next, the 8th June.

The late Mr. Cope, as a breeder of stock, was second to none in the colony, a stock having realised the highest prices—colonial-bred horses; and, as several of his selected by him for breeding purposes, he liberally invites parties in want of superior them prior to the sale.

Terms at sale.

...class brought
...to of his young
...or obtained for
...above lot were
...sanctioned con-
...stock to inspect

